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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAPE T 00185 091706 Z

64
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 AID-20 OMB-01 RSR-01 /130 W
---------- 011771
R 091411 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3359
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 185

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS SF
SUBJ: VORSTER SAYS HE HAS NO PLAN TO STEP DOWN

1. ASKED BY REPORTER MARCH 8 ABOUT HIS POLITICAL FUTURE, VORSTER SAID HE PLANNED REMAIN PRIME MINISTER FOR DURATION OF PRESENT GOVERNMENT, " UNTIL 1975." HE DENOUNCED RUMORS ABOUT HIS HEALTH, WHICH HE SAID WAS GOOD, AND ADDED, " I STILL WORK TWICE AS HARD AS ANY OTHER MINISTER."

2. COMMENT: STORIES THAT PM WOULD RESIGN BEFORE LONG HAVE BEEN REGULAR FEATURE OF POLITICAL COMMENT IN SA FOR SOME TIME. IT POSSIBLE THAT NATIONAL PARTY HAS BEGUN TO EMPHASIZE VORSTER' S INTENTION TO STAY ON. EARLIER THIS WEEK, A NATIONAL PARTY MP TOLD POL COUNSELOR THAT PRIME MINISTER ENJOYED GOOD HEALTH AND THAT HE FIRMLY BELIEVED VORSTER WOULD CONTINUE IN OFFICE FOR SEVERAL YEARS. NEVERTHELESS, THOSE CLOSE TO VORSTER KNOW THAT AT TIMES HIS HEALTH HAS NOT BEEN GOOD. IF SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEM DEVELOPED, HE UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD RE- EXAMINE QUESTION OF HIS TENURE OF OFFICE.
HURD

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: worrelsw
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PINS, SF
To: AF
DURBAN
JOHANNESBURG
LONDON
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SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE

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